

The Year 1915 will be the best ever for this part of the Sunshine State

THE COLUMBUS COURIER

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Florida News Items

Towns, like other things, must have a beginning. Some towns spring into existence as if by magic and make such rapid growth that ere the name can be placed on the map, have progressed to proportions of a good sized city. Such conditions may be strikingly exhibited in formation, growth and development of the town, or city of Florida, which is at present practically unknown beyond Luna County, and, in fact, may be unknown to some of the Courier readers. To such will say that Florida is located some five miles south of the Florida Mountains and midway between Waterloo and Sunnyside, occupying the heart of the Minerva Valley. The natural conditions are favorable to growth and development of a large populous, successful business center. Water, the leading requirement of the Valley, is found here in profusion and the soil is probably unsurpassed for richness and productivity. Enterprising citizens, the life of any community, are pushing developments so energetically as to compel the outside world to sit up and take notice; consequently, new and desirable citizens are continually coming. It is expected that emigration will be greatly increased next spring.

Santa Claus visited our community Xmas eve, silently and unobtrusively and many hearts were made glad by his visit.

A Xmas party was given by Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson and a nice community dinner was served. Mrs. Stevenson was assisted by Mesdames Cline and Hobbs and Miss Bevins. Mrs. Hobbs proved her mastery of the culinary art in preparation of an excellent chicken pie, as was supposed, from her beautiful flock of thoroughbred buff orpingtons, but which later developed to have been prepared from a combination of fresh pork and rabbit. The high priced French cook has nothing on Mrs. Hobbs. A large turkey, nice, juicy and well roasted, also graced the festive board and was well relished by all the guests. The turkey was supplied by Mr. Schmidt and prepared by Mrs. Stevenson. There were vegetables, pie, cake and desserts in profusion. To give a complete menu would require too much space. At the table everyone seemed to take great pleasure in a thorough performance of duty but the feast was so great that a liberal supply was left over. After dinner the entertainment was continued, with music, games, etc., until a late hour when all went home happy, feeling very much under obligations to Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson for the good time they had enjoyed.

Another pleasant feature of the occasion was the celebration of their forty-ninth wedding anniversary by Mrs. Stevenson's sister and mother, Mr. and Mrs. French. Preparations are already under way for an elaborate celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary next Xmas.

John Schmid has taken up his residence again on his homestead planning to push development of same.

W. L. Hobbs is stilling another well on his farm, preparing for extensive irrigation next year.

H. K. Bevins, who lately bought the Coleman relinquishment is making some substantial improvements. H. K. is a booster of the right cause—the

Mantell Puts Up a Good Fight

In the boxing contest held here Christmas day Charlie Lucca, the Canadian lightweight champion, defeated Mantell in one of the best fights the people of Columbus and vicinity have ever had the pleasure of witnessing. Lucca had the best of every round except the fourth and sixth. Lucca was unable to knock out the batter and won the fight on points. Mantell landed several hard blows to the body, but Lucca seemed to thrive on these kind of punches. Mantell put up one of the gamiest fights we ever saw, though he did not understand his opponent's mode of fighting. Lucca always followed up his punch with his head. Mantell says he was hurt worse by the butts he received than with the punches. Lucca fought a clean battle, though, as the game goes. It was a hard fought battle and the fans were all well pleased with the bout, also the decision.

There was a four round preliminary, Kid Tucker vs Private Downs. This was a dandy fight and was enjoyed almost as much as the main event. It seemed that Tucker had a shade over his opponent, though the decision was a draw, and was popular with the crowd. Thomas G. Lackland, proprietor of the Lodge, refereed the bouts.

Christmas Exercises at Church

A very good program was given Xmas Eve at the Church which was as follows:

Song—Joy to the World
by Congregation

Scripture Reading—Mr. Page
Prayer—Pastor

Duet—Of Come to My Heart
Lord Jesus—Mrs. and Miss Page

Christmas Hymn—Primary
Song—We Three Kings of the Orient Are—Mrs. Hoddington's Class

Exercise by nine children
Christmas Sermon

Duet—The Old, Old Story—
Mrs. Page and Mrs. Hoddington

Trombone Solo with Violin and Organ accompaniment—
Nimrod—Mr. Weld

Little Chatterbox—Recitation by
Dorothy Smith

Quartet—Christmas Hells—
Mr. and Mrs. Evans,
Mrs. Page and Mr. Blair

Song—America—Congregation

In Justice Court

The case of the State vs Edna Lawyer and Mack Rascon being called for hearing in Justice Court on Wednesday, the defendant's counsel asked for a change of venue to the nearest justice. Same was allowed and sent to C. C. Rogers, precinct No. 1, to be heard January 4th, 1915.

man who proves his faith by his works.

Ivan Hobbs, another enterprising young man, has illustrated his faith in Florida by fitting on a very desirable home-lease. Ivan bought a relinquishment adjoining his father and the high price said to have been paid for same denotes that close in property is advancing at a rapid rate.

C. R. Stevenson, our up-to-date well driller, reports a rush of business.

Mr. and Mrs. Kane went to Iowa, Xmas.

Mrs. Taffie is visiting her husband at Santa Rita during the holidays.

Optimist.

Old Year, Adieu!

Old Father Time, with visage grim,
Marks finis on another year.
His harvest he has gathered in;
The swath was wide both far
and near.

The strife of battle rages round
The ranks of fighters in the van,
But clashing arms and shouts
Resound
Of victor and of conquered man.

The aged sire, with trembling hands
And hoary locks of silvery white,
Perceives the passing of the sands,
The sunset's glow, the clouds of
night.

Mayhap there is a vacant chair
At home, but recently resigned,
A loved one gone above to wear
The crown of bliss by angels twined.

The path to glory may not lead
With roses strewn about the feet,
But hope and strive by word and
deed

Some soul to cheer—the New
Year greet!

—Ex.

Educational Column

By T. A. Windsor

Last week the typesetter of this column set up the word paper where the word hope should have been, but it was evidently due more to poor penmanship on the part of the writer than of carelessness of the typesetter. The proofreader of this paper ought to get a deal who had studied both the Chinese language and Egyptian hieroglyphics if he wants the writer to conduct a column for him.

A writer usually tries to avoid the appearance of egotism by using "me" for "I," "my" for "my" and "us" instead of the word "we," but when carried too far it begins to seem of the very thing the writer is trying to avoid. So from now on the contributor of this column may not adhere so strictly to that method.

TO LENGTHEN SCHOOL YEAR

The board of superintendents has recommended to the board of education of New York City that the public school year be extended from 180 to 200 days. Should this be done, it would still be true that the vast amount of public property invested in the school system would be idle for more than one-third of the year. The secretary of Yale University, in his annual report, favors a shortened summer vacation and a longer college year. In addition, he favors optional courses of education to be pursued during the vacation period on the option of the undergraduate. This tendency to lengthen the school year is becoming pronounced in American educational circles, and it is likely that experiments in that direction will be made in the near future.—Epworth Herald.

Education is generally thought to be a good thing, but after all it depends largely upon the one educated. Unless the whole man is developed and an equal amount

of attention is paid to the three H's—that is the head, heart and hand—one's best friends are usually disappointed in them, and you almost feel as if it was good money thrown away.

In another decade our school work will evidently become more practical. Just how the manual work will find room in our already crowded curriculum is a question, but it will no doubt be done. Perhaps we can combine some of our present studies. Could we not put history, civil government and geography all in one book. Now, don't some one jump on to me for saying this. I don't mean any harm; you don't have to do it you know.

You will find quoted in this column an article that appears to favor longer school hours all of which is very good, provided about half the dozen could be devoted to practical work. Suppose the boy studies his arithmetic and geometry in the forenoon and in the afternoon he uses his mathematical knowledge in framing a miniature home. Suppose a girl studies her chemistry and hygiene and then is allowed to go down in the basement and use it in cooking a dinner that she is not ashamed to ask a few friends down to eat. Don't ask your teacher to do this now, but some day it may be brought about. We are no doubt treading in the right direction.

Mrs. Lieutenant Claude deB. Hunt won the doll in the guessing contest at the store of Moore & Moore. The contest was guessing the number of beans and grains of corn in a jar. The guesses were all the way from 500 to 5000. The number was 1293. Mrs. Hunt guessing the exact number. The prize was a \$5 doll.

Misses Sadie and Florence Lilly are here from El Paso to spend the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. K. S. Lilly.

Big Expenditure for Schools

"We have every reason to feel proud of this progress in New Mexico during the past few years," declared State Superintendent White today, "and if the enthusiasm for education keeps up at the pace it has, during the next few years, I see no reason why our per capita expenditure for education should not compare favorably with any in the country. We are so far ahead of some of the southern states now that we may feel encouraged to do even greater things to reach the youth of our vast state."

New Mexico has far outdistanced North Carolina, with which she used to be classed in territorial days, and is fast climbing to the status of prosperous, enlightened western states in the matter of expending money for education.

This fact is gleaned from a study of certain statistics submitted by Alvan N. White, state superintendent of public instruction, in his report to the governor. By comparing these statistics with those of other states, the progress of New Mexico is readily seen.

New Mexico expended the sum of \$1,340,402.54 on her public schools in 1913-14. There was an average attendance of 49,825, which gives the expenditure of \$27.42 per capita on this basis. New Mexico had an enrollment of 67,147 pupils in 1913-1914, which shows that the sum of \$20.05 was expended per capita on that basis. There were enumerated 102,000 in this state, which would give \$19.39 per capita.

The state of Utah, which has been regarded as a banner state in educational development, had an enrollment of over 31,000 and expended over \$3,000,000, or about \$40 per capita. The state of Washington is a little below Utah, for its enrollment was 285,141 and it expended about \$11,000,000, giving a per capita of about \$38.

Down in North Carolina the enrollment showed 507,932 and the expenditure of \$5,821,367, or an expenditure of about \$7.50—a little more than a third of New Mexico's.

Statistics on the rural schools of Massachusetts, where so much money is supposed to be available for education, show that about \$30 was expended per capita, taking the number enrolled as the basis.

A COPY TO FORGET

Superintendent White has sent a copy of his official report made to the governor on educational conditions in this state to Dr. H. W. Focht, specialist in rural school practice with the bureau of education in Washington. Dr. Focht is preparing a bulletin on New Mexico schools, devoting particular attention to the rural schools, which he visited on a tour made of this state a few days ago.

Mr. White said today that he hopes to have 2,000 copies of Dr. Focht's bulletin in New Mexico for distribution among the teachers of New Mexico.

A. L. Palmer has returned here from Colton, California, and will make some improvements on his place northeast of town.

We have a few extra copies of this week's Courier. Come in and get some and send them to your friends.

Mrs. J. V. Dorsey of Los Angeles, Cal., is here visiting Mrs. Witt.

Article by the Pastor

A MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR

There are times in life when it is fitting that we should pause and look back upon our career. I do not know that there is any special reason why we should be guided by the calendar in doing this, but somehow to a certain extent most people are. The close of the year sets us thinking about our record and the different experiences through which we have passed in our journey thus far along the road of destiny. It is a solemnizing thought that we have once more reached the beginning of a new year. It does not seem so very long since the beginning of 1914 and yet here we are writing lines on another year's work, and what have we to show for it? I am afraid that the uppermost feeling in our hearts must be that of regret and self-reproach that the results are so poor and meager, so marred by folly and sin. Someone has said that it was sad to reflect that he had to die when he was just beginning to live. Perhaps so, but our faith is that the experience is only carried forward to a new ledger where we can start, thank God, with a clean entry and without the same liability to mistakes and failures.

And with this thought in mind let us take courage, for He who has cared for us thus far will not abandon us in the time to come. "Lo I am with you always," said the Master, "even unto the end of the world."

The task before us is hard, there may be heavy burdens to be borne, sorrows to be endured. On the other hand, it may please Almighty God to grant deliverance from all ills and to fill our cup of joy to overflowing, or it may even be that before another annual milestone in our journey towards the Homeland is reached we shall have received our summons to join the "choir invisible." But be that as it may, we have nothing to fear, for "underneath are His everlasting arms."

Church Notes

The Rev. Land of the Baptist Church will occupy the pulpit at the Methodist Church next Sunday, preaching both morning and evening.

At the meeting of the Epworth League the topic will be: "Promises of a Redeemer."

Chair practice Wednesday afternoon in the Church at 3:30 o'clock.

Meeting of the Ladies Aid next Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Lee Thomas.

The W. C. T. U. will meet on Tuesday, the 12th.

At the Christmas dinner given by Mrs. Dunn, the following guests were present: Miss Waterbury and Mr. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Burckhead and son Lingard, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Frost and Mr. and Mrs. Myron Dunn.

Tom McPosters, of El Paso, is in the Valley this week and is considering making some investments. Mr. McPosters is a marble and onyx contractor, and is very favorably impressed with the onyx deposits west of town.

J. W. Blair orders the Courier sent to E. N. Page, at Fischer's Store, Texas, and to D. S. Langhlin, Monument, New Mexico.